

REMARKS

Claims 1, 14 have been amended to incorporate the features of dependent Claims 12, 23, respectively. Accordingly, Claims 12 and 23 have been canceled without prejudice and Claims 13, 24 amended to depend from Claims 1, 14, respectively.

Claims 18, 21 have been amended to be in independent form and to include the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The headings below are numbered to correspond with the heading numbering used by the Examiner in the Office Action.

1/2) The disclosure has been corrected.

The disclosure has been amended to correct the typographical error noted by the Examiner at page 1, line 29.

For the above reason, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

3/4) The double patenting rejection of Claims 1-10 and 13-22, 24-30 is obviated.

Co-filed herewith is a Terminal Disclaimer to Obviate a Double Patenting Rejection Over a Prior Patent Including Statement Under 37 CFR 3.73(B). The Terminal Disclaimer obviates the double patenting rejection of Claim 1-10 and 13-22, 24-30.

For the above reason, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter.

Since the only rejection of Claims 12-13, 18-19, 21-30 was the double patenting rejection, which has been obviated, Claims 25-30 are allowable and Claims 12-13, 18-19, 21-24 contained allowable subject matter.

The allowable subject matter of Claim 12 has been incorporated into Claim 1, and Claim 12 has been canceled

without prejudice. Accordingly, Claim 1, and dependent Claims 2-10, 13 are allowable.

The allowable subject matter of Claim 23 has been incorporated into Claim 14, and Claim 23 has been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, Claim 14, and dependent Claims 15-17, 20, 24 are allowable.

Claims 18 and 21 have been amended into independent form and to include the features of the base claim and any intervening claim. Accordingly, Claims 18 and 21 are allowable. Claim 19, which depends from Claim 18, is allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 18. Claim 22, which depends from Claim 21, is allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 21.

Claim 11 stands withdrawn. However, Claim 11 depends from allowable generic Claim 1 and should be reinstated and allowed.

Specifically, the Examiner stated at page 3 of the October 7, 2003 Office Action:

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claims as provided by 37 CFR 1.141.

At page 2 of the response filed on October 30, 2003, Applicants stated:

Applicants further assert that Claims 1-6, 12-30 are generic for Species I, II, and III ...

Accordingly, Claim 11 should be reinstated and allowed.

In summary, Claims 1-11, 13-22, 24-30, all of the pending claims, are allowable.

5/6) Claims 1-7, 14-17, and 20 are novel over O'Regan et al. (5,424,531).

As set forth above under the heading "Allowable Subject Matter", Claims 1-7, 14-17 and 20 are allowable.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

7/8) Claims 8-10 are patentable over O'Regan et al. in view of Sakamoto (5,228,430).

As set forth above under the heading "Allowable Subject Matter", Claims 8-10 are allowable.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

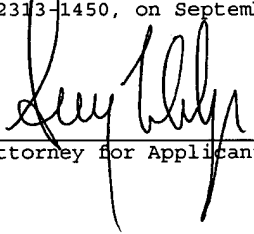
Conclusion

Claims 1-11, 13-22, 24-30 are pending in the application.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions relating to the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant(s).

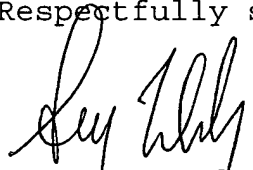
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 28, 2004.


Attorney for Applicant(s)

September 28, 2004
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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